United Nations E/RES/2014/31

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
11 March 2015

2014 session
Item 16 (*i*) of the provisional agenda*

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 17 November 2014

[on the recommendation of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (E/2014/46)]

2014/31. A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999, in which the Assembly endorsed the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development",[1] which included, inter alia, key actions to improve the efficiency and security of transport, search and rescue, geodesy and other activities by promoting the enhancement of, universal access to and compatibility of space-based navigation and positioning systems, including Global Navigation Satellite systems,

Reaffirming further General Assembly resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, in which the Assembly endorsed the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[2] and means of implementation, which included, inter alia, strengthening cooperation and coordination among global observing systems and research programmes for integrated global observations, taking into account the need for building capacity and sharing of data from ground-based observations, satellite remote sensing and other sources among all countries,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", in which Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of space-technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operations,

---

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

[1] Adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held in Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999 (A/CONF.184/6, chap. I, resolution 1).

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

14-67180 (E)

Please recycle

Noting its resolution 2011/24 of 27 July 2011, by which the Council established the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, encouraged Member States to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies, and emphasized the importance of promoting national, regional and global efforts to foster the exchange of knowledge and expertise, to assist developing countries in building and strengthening national capacities in that field,

Noting also resolution 1, adopted on 1 November 2012 by the Nineteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 29 October to 1 November 2012,[3] in which the Conference, realizing the need to improve the sustainability and capability of the Global Geodetic Observing System and the need to encourage and support the adoption of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame as the foundation reference frame, urged the Committee of Experts to consult with Member States to adopt and sustain the global geodetic reference frame and provide a road map for its implementation, and to participate in and make commitments to the Global Geodetic Observing System to ensure its long-term sustainability,

Noting further decision 3/102, adopted by the Committee of Experts on 26 July 2013,[4] in which the Committee agreed that actions should be taken to facilitate the submission of a resolution to be tabled at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly in order to seek support and commitment at the highest level, and requested the Secretariat to establish a working group, with equitable regional representation, to develop the conceptual note and draft text of the resolution through an open and inclusive process,

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation, as no one country can do this alone, to realize the global geodetic reference frame and services to underpin Global Navigation Satellite Systems technology and provide the framework for all geospatial activity, as a key enabler of spatial data interoperability, disaster mitigation and sustainable development,

Recognizing also the economic and scientific importance of and the growing demand for an accurate and stable global geodetic reference frame for the Earth that allows the interrelationship of measurements taken anywhere on the Earth and in space, combining geometric positioning and gravity field-related observations, as the basis and reference in location and height for geospatial information, which is used in many Earth science and societal applications, including sea-level and climate change monitoring, natural hazard and disaster management and a whole series of industrial applications (including mining, agriculture, transport, navigation and construction) in which precise positioning introduces efficiencies,

Recognizing further the extraordinary achievements made by national mapping and space agencies, geodetic commissions, research organizations and universities and other international organizations such as the International Federation of Surveyors, building upon initiatives of the International Association of Geodesy, representing the global geodetic community, in measuring and monitoring changes in the Earth's system on a best-effort basis, including the development of the now adopted International Terrestrial Reference Frame,

---

[3] See E/CONF.102/8, chap. IV, sect. B.

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 26* (E/2013/46), chap. I, sect. B.

Recognizing the investments of Member States in developing satellite missions for positioning and remote sensing of the Earth, supporting a range of scientific endeavours that improve our understanding of the "Earth system" and underpin decision-making, and recognizing that the full societal benefits of these investments are realized only if they are referenced to a common global geodetic reference frame at the national, regional and global levels,

Recognizing with appreciation that some Member States are already implementing open geodetic data-sharing mechanisms for the benefit of realizing, improving and accessing the global geodetic reference frame at the national, regional and global levels,

Acknowledging that the global geodetic reference frame depends upon the participation of countries all around the globe, and the need to take action to strengthen international cooperation,

1. *Endorses* decision 3/102 of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management,[4] whereby a working group should be established, with equitable regional representation, to develop a global geodetic road map that addresses key elements relating to the development and sustainability of the global geodetic reference frame;

2. *Encourages* Member States and relevant international organizations to enhance global cooperation in providing technical assistance, especially for capacity development in geodesy for developing countries, with the aim of ensuring the development, sustainability and advancement of the global geodetic reference frame;

3. *Urges* Member States to implement open sharing of geodetic data, standards and conventions to contribute to the global reference frame and regional densifications through relevant national mechanisms and intergovernmental cooperation, and in coordination with the International Association of Geodesy;

4. *Invites* Member States to commit to improving and maintaining appropriate national geodetic infrastructure as an essential means to enhance the global geodetic reference frame;

5. *Also invites* Member States to engage in multilateral cooperation that addresses infrastructure gaps and duplications towards the development of a more sustainable global geodetic reference frame;

6. *Further invites* Member States to develop outreach programmes that make the global geodetic reference frame more visible and understandable to society;

7. *Recommends* the present resolution to the General Assembly for endorsement.

50th plenary meeting
17 November 2014

United Nations E/RES/2014/32

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
13 March 2015

2014 session
Item 13 of the provisional agenda*

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 17 November 2014

[on the recommendation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (E/2014/15/Add.1/Rev.1)]

2014/32. Establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption on 9 May 2014 by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-fifth session, held in Lima from 5 to 9 May 2014, of resolution 682 (XXXV), entitled "Establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean",

Endorses the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as set out in Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolution 682 (XXXV) and the annex thereto, which are annexed to the present resolution.

51st plenary meeting
17 November 2014

Annex

Resolution 682 (XXXV)

Establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-67181 (E)

Please recycle

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,[1] the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[2] and other relevant internationally agreed instruments constitute, together with the global dialogue on this issue, the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit[4] and at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[5] and the outcome document of the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,[6]

Bearing in mind that the year 2015 marks the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development,

Considering that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has been cooperating systematically in the field of social development to facilitate inter-agency coordination among the countries of the region, international organizations and the national agencies charged with carrying out projects to promote social development,

Considering also the key role played by the Commission in the region in recent years in facilitating and encouraging dialogue among representatives of the countries of the region, and thus in promoting the consolidation of institutions devoted to social development and to policies and regulatory frameworks for such activities,

Recognizing the support function performed by the United Nations regional commissions in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development,

Taking into account the need to promote cooperation in the sphere of social development,

Having reviewed the proposal for the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the proposed nature and the objectives of the Conference, as set forth in the annex to the present resolution,

1. *Approves* the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the objectives of which are set forth in the annex to the present resolution, as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, bearing in mind the observations and suggestions included in the report of the Commission on its thirty-fifth session, with a view to eradicating poverty in the region and promoting decent work, equality and social inclusion;

---

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid, annex II.

[3] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[4] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[5] See General Assembly resolution 65/1.

[6] General Assembly resolution 68/6.

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit such proposals as may be necessary for the establishment of the Conference to the relevant United Nations bodies for their consideration;

3. *Decides* to convene the first meeting of the Conference during the second half of 2015;

4. *Takes note* of the fact that the seventh meeting of the Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in Mexico on 30 and 31 October 2014 and will be a discussion platform for promoting inclusive social development in the region;

5. *Welcomes* the generous offer of the Government of Peru to host the first meeting of the Conference;

6. *Invites* the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to join this initiative;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of the present resolution at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission.

Annex to resolution 682 (XXXV)

I. Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Nature

1. The Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall be a subsidiary body of the Commission that will contribute to the progress of social development policies and activities in the countries of the region.

Objectives

2. The objectives of the Conference shall be:

(*a*) To promote the improvement of national policies on social development, bearing in mind national requirements and recommendations made by specialized agencies and other relevant organizations;

(*b*) To further international, regional and bilateral cooperation among national offices and institutions and international and regional agencies to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer and joint activities in the field of social development;

(*c*) To examine multidimensional poverty and make progress on the measurement of poverty, inequality and structural gaps, in conjunction with the relevant subsidiary bodies that conduct studies in this field, in particular the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission;

(*d*) To exchange experiences in relation to social matters and support and provide technical inputs for the summits of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and other regional forums;

(*e*) To contribute from the perspective of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to the discussions and proposals considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Membership

3. The States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean will be members of the Conference.

Meetings of the Conference

4. The Conference shall hold its regular meetings every two years. The Conference may accept an invitation from the Government of a member State to hold its regular meeting in that country.

Presiding Officers

5. The Conference shall elect Presiding Officers in accordance with the regulations established by the Commission. The Chair of the Presiding Officers shall also preside over the meetings of the Conference.

Secretariat

6. The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall serve as the secretariat for the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The secretariat shall make available to the Conference such documents as have been approved by the Commission and the facilities necessary to carry out its work.

II. Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Nature

7. The Conference shall appoint Presiding Officers to support it, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 above.

Composition

8. The Presiding Officers shall be composed of a Chair and six members. The members shall be elected from among the member countries of the Commission. Special attention shall be devoted to ensuring that the subregional groupings of countries are duly represented among the Presiding Officers.

Election of the Presiding Officers and duration of mandates

9. At the beginning of each meeting of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Chair of the Presiding Officers, in consultation with the Presiding Officers and the Conference, shall draw up a proposal for the election of the next Presiding Officers.

10. The newly elected Presiding Officers shall take up their duties upon the conclusion of the regular meeting of the Conference at which they were elected, and shall remain in office until the conclusion of the next regular meeting.

11. The Presiding Officers, including the Chair, shall be elected by the Conference at its regular meeting for a term of two years.

12. The members of the Presiding Officers may serve for three successive terms. The Chair may not be re-elected to that office for a second consecutive term, but may be elected to serve as one of the Presiding Officers.

13. A Presiding Officer who has served for three successive terms may not be re-elected until two years have elapsed since the end of his or her previous mandate.

Duties

14. The Presiding Officers shall have the following duties:

(*a*) To carry out the tasks assigned to them by the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(*b*) To follow up on the implementation of the agreements adopted and the tasks assigned by the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(*c*) To decide on the documentation required for its meetings.

Meetings

15. The Presiding Officers shall meet at least once during the interval between regular meetings of the Conference. At the meeting preceding the next meeting of the Conference, the Presiding Officers shall adopt a programme of activities for the Conference, which shall be submitted to the Conference at its regular meeting.

16. The Presiding Officers may invite to their meetings any countries or experts they consider may make a contribution to the fulfilment of their duties.